
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — OCTOBER 2017

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on October 6, 2017, at the Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) Showroom. The IPI Deputy Director, Dan Clark, welcomed the Board and led a presentation on IPI and its impact on inmates at prisons throughout the State. The presentation also included testimonials by a corrections officer and two offenders currently employed by IPI.

Director's Report. Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Jerry Bartruff reported on several items:

- The annual Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) challenge was hosted by the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility at Brushy Creek State Park.
- The 2017 Crisis Negotiation Competition took place at Principal Park in Des Moines. Officers from the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women won first place at the competition.
- DOC Communications Director Cord Overton discussed the efforts by the DOC to increase its public presence through the Department's Twitter and Facebook pages.

Department Budget. DOC Financial Manager Steve Dick reported on several budget items:

- **FY 2017:** The FY 2017 budget year has been finalized, with all bills paid and a reversion of approximately \$100,000 to the State General Fund. The Community-Based Corrections and Corrections Education services had a total carryforward balance of approximately \$5.3 million.
- **FY 2018:** The FY 2018 budget year is on target for its current funding level. The DOC maintains a cautious approach to hiring new employees due to budget constraints.
- **FY 2019:** The DOC has submitted its FY 2019 department budget request to the Department of Management. The request includes a \$1.0 million increase for pharmaceutical costs at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center at the Oakdale facility. The Board also plans to send a letter to the Governor addressing the staffing concerns and salary adjustment needs of the Department.

Mount Pleasant Land Transfer. DOC General Counsel Michael Savala provided an update to the Board on the proposed transfer of State land at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility to Henry County for a new law enforcement facility. Officials from the DOC and the Department of Administrative Services met with local officials from Henry County to discuss the proposal. The county jail would include approximately 50 beds, with the possibility of expansion. The DOC expressed an interest in incorporating the new Law Enforcement Center into its current operations at the correctional facility by having the prison inmates prepare the meals for the jail and sharing equipment with the county to maintain the grounds. The Board voted in favor of the land transfer.

Additional Meeting Items. Additional agenda items included:

- **Apprenticeship Program Update:** DOC Apprenticeship Coordinator Tim Diesburg provided an update on the apprenticeship program. The program is in place at all nine institutions, with 331 apprentices currently participating in the program. Since 2015, 92 offenders have completed their apprenticeship programs.

- **Statewide Recidivism Reduction Update:** DOC Research Director Dr. Beth Skinner presented on the current efforts of the Statewide Recidivism Reduction Strategy to promote evidence-based practices and improve the quality of services provided. The federal grant funding for the project is available through October 2018.
- **“The Fort” Documentary:** The Board had a conference call with Dan Manatt, director of the documentary “The Fort: 177 Years of Crime and Punishment at the Iowa State Penitentiary.” The project was started by Humanities Iowa in 2013. The film premiered in Fort Madison on October 7, 2017. More information on the documentary may be found on the film’s official [website](#).

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on November 3, 2017, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines. For additional information, see the DOC website: doc.iowa.gov/about-us/board-corrections.

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